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Pay and allowances of the Executive Officer, Salem Municipality.

* 243 *Q.*—Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state— to

(*a*) the name of the officer who was detailed as executive officer to the Salem Municipality; his monthly pay and allowances;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Government have fixed the total pay and allowances of the executive officers of municipalities from Rs. 500—800 per month; and

(*c*) what the financial position is of the Salem Municipality?

A.—(*a*) Mr. R. D. Paul.

	RS.
Pay in the regular line as Deputy Collector ...	420
Special pay as Commissioner	100
Conveyance allowance, subject to the maintenance of a motor car	40

(*b*) Government have not fixed any minimum pay and allowances to commissioners appointed to municipalities, but the amount, under the provisions of section 12-C (6) (*a*) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, shall not exceed Rs. 800.

(*c*) The financial position of the council is not satisfactory as municipal revenues are not collected properly. The council expects to close the current year with a balance of Rs. 1,754 in the General Account—Ordinary and with a balance of Rs. 41,001 in the General Account—Capital, after providing for an expenditure of Rs. 18,500 on capital works from ordinary revenues. When the council framed its budget in January 1933, so large a sum as Rs. 97,476 under all accounts was expected to be left uncollected at the close of the current year. The financial position of such special funds, as the Elementary Education fund and Water Works and Drainage fund is satisfactory. Government expect an improvement in the general financial position to be effected by the appointment of the Commissioner as he will be in a position to collect taxes promptly.

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" In view of the present financial position of the Salem Municipality, will the Government be pleased to explore the possibility of appointing an officer of the grade of a Tahsildar instead of the present one who is in the Deputy Collectors' grade? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili:—" An officer of a Deputy Collector's grade is necessary for this municipality. I also believe that the appointment of this officer will result in better collections."

Mr. V. T. Arasu:—" May I know whether in the case of Bezwada Municipality which is as large as Salem Municipality there is only a Tahsildar as executive officer of that municipality? "

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The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Bezwada Municipality is a much smaller municipality than Salem."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the respective incomes of these two municipalities?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Not only the income but also the population has to be taken into consideration."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Will the hon. Minister be pleased to let us have information regarding their respective population and extent?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The hon. Member can get the information from the Census Report. The population of Salem is about 103,000, while the population of Bezwada is about 55,000."

Working and finances of the newly bifurcated taluk boards.

* 244 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are satisfied with the working and finances of the newly bifurcated taluk boards; and

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to issue a statement of their policy with respect to such taluk boards?

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clause (*c*) of question No. 10 on 31st July 1933.

(*b*) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"May I know whether it is not a fact that taluk boards in the Kistna district were stopped from conducting their elections?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Yes, it is a fact."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"May I know whether the whole matter is under consideration and how they were able to issue orders to certain taluk boards alone?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Until the whole matter is finally decided and financial conditions of the boards improve, the Government thought it best to maintain the *status quo ante*."

Transfer of the control of cattle-pounds in the Guntur district to the panchayat boards.

* 245 *Q.*—Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any panchayats in the Guntur district have applied for the control of cattle 'pounds' in their areas;

(*b*) whether the Government have sanctioned such control to the panchayats; and